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FROM: Mr. Maris Graube

DATE: 15-Jan-02

TO: Attorney General John Ashcroft

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COMPANY: Department of Justice

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am in favor of the Microsoft antitrust case settlement. From my perspective, the sooner the litigation is concluded, the better. I work in the technology industry. In my business, we benefit daily from product innovations made by Microsoft and the standards they set in how we communicate via our computer software. I would like to see this matter resolved so Microsoft is able to continue developing superior products as they have consistently done in the past. It makes little sense to continue to burden the court system and Microsoft with this litigation. It appears to me that the parties have participated in extensive negotiations, and have arrived at a settlement agreement that is fair.

The agreement calls for many concessions on Microsoft's part. Microsoft will not retaliate against those who promote or distribute Microsoft's competitors' software. They have also agreed not to enforce their intellectual property rights. Additionally, a three person technical committee will monitor Microsoft's compliance with the terms of the agreement. The agreement goes well beyond what is necessary to address the complaints made by Microsoft's wanna-be competitors. No further delay in the settlement process is warranted or justified.

I believe Microsoft has been a force for public good. Where else can you buy millions of lines of computer code for as little as they charge? Who else has the ability to effectively set computer standards? Without Microsoft, we would still be in the dark ages when it was not possible to exchange computer documents or various data without employing a legion of programmers.

Sincerely,

Maris Graube
President
2221 Yew Street
Forest Grove, OR 97116

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